

WILMSLOW
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1920.



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THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT is situated in the County of Chester, about 10 miles south of Manchester. The London and North Western Railway from Manchester to Crewe runs through it. It forms part of the Cheshire plain, and is traversed by the valley of the river* Bollin. Its area comprises 4,969 acres. The subsoil is chiefly sand and clay. On Lindow Common, and in its neighbourhood, there is peat. The district is partly suburban and partly rural in character. The population was 8,153 at the census of 1911, as against 7,361 in 1901, being an increase of 792, or 10.7 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the increase was 14.4 per cent. The population was estimated to be 8,538 in 1920. A considerable part of the population is residential, chiefly composed of persons engaged in business in Manchester, with their families.

There are no large works in the district. There are 3 under-clothing manufactories, a steam laundry, and a book-binding and stationery works. Some of the inhabitants work at a cotton mill at Styal, and some at a bleach works at Handforth: places just outside the district. Many are employed in the ordinary local trades, whilst others are occupied with agriculture.

As a rule there is not much unemployment. Persons in receipt of poor relief are mostly aged and past work. There is no hospital in the district. The inhabitants make use of the hospitals in Manchester and Stockport, to which the Council are subscribers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

164 births (86 male and 78 female) and 92 deaths (46 male and 46 female) were registered in 1920. 6 births were illegitimate. The

birth-rate was 19.2 per 1,000 living, as against 11.6 for 1919. The death-rate was 10.7 per 1,000 living, as against 11.3 for 1919. For England and Wales the birth-rate was 25.4, and the death-rate 12.4. For 96 great towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000) the birth-rate was 26.2, and the death-rate 12.5, and for 148 smaller towns (census populations 20,000—50,000) the birth-rate was 24.9 and the death-rate 11.3. For London, birth-rate 26.5 and death-rate 12.4.

There were 8 deaths of infants under 1 year, all being legitimate. The infant mortality, i.e., the death-rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 births was 48, as against 60 in 1919. The infant mortality for England and Wales was 80; for the great towns 85; smaller towns 80; and London 75.

Causes of Death in Infants :—

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Premature birth... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital debility | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Diarrhœa | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Asphyxia of newborn | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Whooping cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Epilepsy | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Causes of Death at All Ages :—

Males. Females.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|---|
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Pulmonary tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 2 |
| Other tuberculous diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | — |
| Cancer, malignant disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 9 |
| Organic heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 7 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhœa (under 2 years)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Cirrhosis of liver | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Nephritis and Bright's disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Puerperal fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Parturition apart from puerperal | | | | | | |
| fever | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | 2 |
| Congenital debility, etc. | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | — |
| Violence, apart from suicide | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Other defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | 17 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

The Stockport Corporation supply water from their works at Kinder.

The supply is constant, good, and ample for all needs.

Some parts of the rural area are dependant upon wells.

Two complaints were received in regard to wells. The result of the analysis was unfavourable in one case; the well was closed and town's water laid on.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage is treated by:—

(a) Precipitation tanks and land;

(b) Broad irrigation.

No complaints made.

The rural parts of Chorley, Hough and Dean Row are without a proper sewerage system. No new works carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This consists of 1,014 water closets and 930 privies, 25 per cent. of the latter being in the rural area. 30 privies were converted into water closets during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The Council undertakes the scavenging. The dry refuse is put on farm land to fill up hollows, and the night soil on bog and farm land for use as manure.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1920.

| A | | B | | C | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Number and Nature of Inspections made | | Number of Notices served | | Result of Service of Notices | | | | |
| | | Number | Statutory | Informal | Notices com- plied with | Remaining in hand | Prosecutions Instituted | Pending |
| 1. | Dwelling Houses (general inspections) | 123 | ... | ... | 9 | 9 | — | — |
| 2. | Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets | 438 | ... | ... | 30 | 44 | 14 | — |
| 3. | House Drainage | 17 | ... | ... | 12 | 12 | — | — |
| 4. | Offensive Accumulations | 4 | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| 5. | The Keeping of Animals [P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3)]... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 6. | Slaughterhouses (Private) | 7 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 7. | Piggeries | 3 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 8. | (a) Dairies | 4 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| | (b) Cowsheds | 40 | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| | (c) Milkshops | 1 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 9. | (a) Factories | 4 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| | (b) Workshops | 40 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 10. | Bakehouses (Overground) | 12 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| | “ (Underground) | 1 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 11. | Common Lodging Houses | 4 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| 12. | Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits | 29 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | | 728 | ... | ... | 74 | 60 | 14 | |

(Signed) A. S. CARTWRIGHT.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There is one common lodging-house. It has been inspected and found to be in a fairly satisfactory structural condition and satisfactory as regards cleanliness.

There are no cellar dwellings or offensive trades.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply are satisfactory.

The Council School (Infants' Department) was closed for a time in January, July and November, on account of the prevalence of measles, chicken-pox and whooping cough respectively in these months.

The Chancel Lane School was also closed in November because of the prevalence of whooping cough.

FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

There are 40 cowsheds, 4 dairies and 1 milkshop on the register. The quality of milk on the whole is good, but there have been complaints of deficiency of cream in some cases. There are adequate arrangements for supply and distribution.

Regulations are in force under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops' Order.

The premises have been inspected. With some exceptions they are fairly well kept.

No action has been called for in regard to tuberculous milk.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—No case reported calling for action under this Order.

(b)—MEAT.

(i) There is no systematic inspection of meat. There are 7 slaughterhouses. The newer buildings comply with all requirements and the others are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

(ii) There is no public slaughterhouse. There are no arrangements for inspecting meat at the time of slaughter.

(iii) No action has been called for in regard to unsound food under S. 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

(iv) Two carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis.

Number of slaughterhouses in use—

| | In 1914 | In January, 1920 | In December, 1920 |
|------------|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Registered | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Licensed | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Total | <u>8</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |

(c)—OTHER FOODS.

The bakehouses have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(d)—FOOD POISONING.

No cases have occurred.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

36 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz :—

- 2 puerperal fever
- 7 scarlet fever
- 19 diphtheria
- 2 pneumonia
- 4 erysipelas
- 1 enteric
- 1 malaria.

The cases of scarlet fever occurred in May, June (2), July, October (2) and November. There appeared to be no connection between them. In one case the disease was most probably contracted in another district. Two patients were removed to Monsall Fever Hospital. There were no deaths.

The cases of diphtheria occurred in July (6), August (7), September (1), October (2), November (1), December (2). There were four cases in one house, three in another and two in each of two others. Fourteen patients were children attending the elementary

schools, and one attended a school outside the district. There was one case below school age: a child of four years who caught the disease from a brother. Above school age there were three cases, aged 15, 16 and 44 respectively. The first of these caught the disease from a younger brother and in the others the source was not traced. The disease broke out in widely separated parts of the district amongst children attending different schools. No connection could be found in most of the cases, nor could infection be traced to "carriers," milk, water or sanitary defects. Eleven patients were removed to the Monsall Fever Hospital. There were two deaths (ages 7 and 11), giving a case-mortality of 10.5 per cent. Antitoxin provided by the Council was freely used both for treatment and prevention. Swabs were taken from "contacts" and no case treated at home was pronounced free from infection until two negative swabs had been obtained.

The incidence of pneumonia is not represented in the number of notifications received. Efforts have been made to secure more complete returns from practitioners.

The case of malaria was that of a soldier who had contracted the disease in Macedonia in 1916.

There were a few cases of influenza in the spring with one death. Vaccine provided by the Ministry of Health was distributed to practitioners for preventive inoculation. There was not much demand for its use.

Reports from the schools of non-notifiable diseases showed that measles was prevalent in January, chicken-pox from April to July, and whooping cough from August to November.

The Council has arranged for the examination of pathological material at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory as an aid to diagnosis. During the year 1920 specimens sent for bacteriological examination included eighty throat swabs, one specimen of blood (enteric positive), and seven of sputum (tuberculosis positive in two cases). Thirty-three swabs were from diphtheria suspects, of which thirteen were positive; the remainder were from "contacts" or were "repeats."

After notification of a case of infectious disease the premises were visited and examined for sanitary defects by the Sanitary

Inspector, and enquiries made concerning contacts, etc. In cases treated at home arrangements as regards isolation were made and disinfection of premises, bedding, etc. carried out. Premises were disinfected by fumigation with formaldehyde. By arrangements made between the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board and the Manchester Corporation the latter will provide a van and remove infected clothing, bedding, etc., to a disinfecting station.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified. Notification of the pulmonary form is fairly complete, though not always as early as is desirable. Non-pulmonary forms are not often notified. Practitioners have had the regulations brought to their notice.

No (*a*) primary vaccinations or (*b*) re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There are no facilities available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1.—STAFF.

Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Surveyor.

2.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By arrangement with the Manchester Corporation, the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, on which the Wilmslow Urban District Council is represented, is provided with a sufficient number of beds at Monsall Hospital for infectious diseases, including smallpox. Fourteen patients were removed to the hospital during the year: eleven cases of diphtheria, two of scarlet fever, and one of puerperal fever.

The Bucklow Joint Hospital Board has the use of fifteen beds in the Baguley Sanatorium for tuberculosis under the Manchester Corporation. No cases were admitted from this district during the year.

3.—ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Local Acts or Special Local Orders—none.

(b) Adoptive Acts :

The following are in force in the district :—

(a) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

(b) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.

(c) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II. ;

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50, comprised in Part III. ;

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, comprised in Part IV. ; and Part V.

4.—CHEMICAL WORK.

No chemical work was done during the year with the exception of analysis of water from two wells. The report in one case was unfavourable.

HOUSING.

(I.)—General Housing Conditions in the District :—

(1)

(2) (a) There is a considerable shortage of houses.

(b) The Council proposes to build 100 houses ; of these 36 are in course of erection.

(3) No important changes in population have taken place during the year, or are anticipated in the future.

(II.)—Overcrowding :—

- (1) There are some cases of overcrowding.
- (2) Due to shortage of houses and lack of three bedrooms in houses.
- (3) New houses are being built as a remedy.
- (4) No action has been taken in regard to cases of overcrowding.

(III.)—Fitness of Houses :—

- (1) (a) The general standard of housing in the district is satisfactory.
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses :—
 1. Defectiveness of general structural condition due to age.
 2. Insufficiency of ventilation.
- (c) Defects are not due to lack of proper management and supervision by owner.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses :— inspections carried out and defects made good.
- (3) There were no difficulties in remedying unfitness or special measures required.
- (4) Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply and refuse disposal are satisfactory. The conversion of privies into water closets is proceeding.

(IV.)—Unhealthy Areas :—

No action called for.

(V.)—Bye-Laws relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—

- (1) The working of existing bye-laws is fairly satisfactory.
- (2) There is need for revision of existing bye-laws.

(VI.)—General and Miscellaneous :—

Nothing to add to above particulars.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for the Year ended 31st December. 1920.

1.—General.

- 1—Estimated Population ... 8,538.
- 2—General Death-rate ... 10·7.
- 3—Death-rate from tuberculosis ... 0·82.
- 4—Infantile mortality ... 48.
- 5—Number of dwelling-houses of all classes ... 2,097.
- 6—Number of working-class dwelling-houses ... 1,285.
- 8—Number of new working-class houses erected ... none.

2.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

I.—Inspection.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 37.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... 123.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... none.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... none.

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 9.

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 18.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—
 - (a) by owners ... 18.
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... none.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... none.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... none.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 ... none.

Inspection under the Housing Acts is undertaken by the Surveyor.

ALFRED BYERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

